Pam. Misc. A.B.C.F.M 1437

Winning The World

A Challenge to Congregationalists

Our Glory—Our Aim

AS Congregationalists we are a part of a great movement, seeking to win the entire world to Christ. Our particular agency in this is the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions. The fact that this is the oldest foreign missionary society in America and has been the parent of many other organizations is only one part of its glory.

Of far greater importance are the principles of spiritual democracy, which the Board has followed through these many years. The Board is Congregational in spirit, but not in a narrow sectarianism. It has always sought to naturalize Christianity in its fields. It is not trying to make Chinese or Japanese or Indian Congregationalists, but Chinese, Japanese and Indian Christians.

In our fields the native Christians hardly know that they are Congregationalists. They consider themselves simply Christians. They are encouraged to claim, and exercise the same right of private judgment in the matters of doctrine, policy and practice that Christians in America enjoy. This liberty has greatly commended the Board in nations like Japan, China, India, Mexico, Bulgaria, where the national sentiment is running strong.

The very name of the Board has proved a great asset, since it carries no implication of denominationalism, but suggests the projection into the non-Christian world of America's highest Christian ideals. The character and ability of the Board's missionary force have also been a large factor in its success. No Board has maintained higher standards for missionary appointment than yours.

A World-Wide Parish

Our task is tremendous. Nothing less than the evangelizing and Christianizing of 75,000,000 of the earth's population. This great multitude, through comity arrangements among the Foreign Boards, is regarded as our exclusive field. In the

furtherance of its task the Board is conducting nineteen Missions, under fifteen different flags. Its fields are as follows:

In Europe: Spain, Czecho-Slovakia, Greece, Bulgaria, and Turkey.
In Asia: Turkey, Armenia, Caucasus, India (Bombay and Madras Presidencies), Ceylon, Japan, China (Provinces of Chihli, Shantung, Shansi, Shensi, Fukien, and Kwangtung).
In Africa: Angola, Natal, Transvaal, Rhodesia, and Portuguese East Africa.
In Oceania: Philippine Islands (Mindanao), Caroline Islands, Marshall Islands.
In Latin America: Mexico (States of Sonora, Sinaloa, Nayarit, Colima, and Jalisco).

The Board has 780 missionaries and assistants on its roll — preachers, educators, translators, social service workers, physicians, nurses, industrial experts, business agents, etc. Associated with these are 5,590 trained native workers.

Our Five-Fold Gospel

The work represents practically every line of Christian and humanitarian effort utilized by the Church at home. It is classified under five departments:

Evangelistic. In all its history the Board never has confronted greater opportunities for winning multitudes to Christ than at the present time. The day of reaping has come. On most of our fields we are entering into splendid results made possible by 112 years of consecrated labor. In our ripest fields the problem is no longer that of winning a few converts here and there, and leading them to the Church, but of caring for the throngs of enquirers who seek Christ. In one county in North China, where only two Chinese pastors are employed, 1,100 converts were made last year, largely from the more intelligent people of the villages and towns. In the Paotingfu field, North China, in the region of the Boxer rebellion in 1910, 4,000 applicants have been listed for church membership, and are being organized into Bible classes, preliminary to baptism. The most promising fields today are North and South China, the Philippines, South and West India, West Africa, the Transvaal, and Czecho-Slovakia.

Educational. The Board is one of the great educational organizations of the world, embracing, as it does, fourteen colleges, 68 academies, 1,136 lower schools, the total pupil enrollment being 79,222. We cover the entire range of education from the Kindergarten to the University. The purpose of this vast system of schools is not only to raise up an intelligent Christian citizenry, but to provide well-trained leaders for every department of the Christian enterprise. Our emphasis upon native initiative will be in vain unless we provide capable native leadership.

Medical. The Board conducts 70 hospitals and dispensaries, and in recent years the medical arm of the service has been exceedingly prominent. In most cases our hospitals are the only modern medical institutions in the areas which they occupy. Several of them have an exclusive constituency of 2,000,000 people. Over 300,000 patients are treated each year. Highly valuable work is done in the way of sanitation, and the prevention of epidemics.

Industrial. In regions like Africa, where barbarism prevails, our missionaries are obliged to build the whole structure of civilization, including the arts and trades. In all lands much is made of manual training, and generally speaking our education is more distinctly vocational and practical than in the United States, but **always from the religious motive.** The Board is doing a great work in promoting modern agricultural principles and methods, and thus helping to overcome famines and improve the economic condition of the people. Experiment farms are conducted in Africa, India, China, and Turkey with excellent results.

Literary. Many consider that the next forward step in foreign missions is to be the wider use of the printed page. Mission schools have raised up such an army of readers that mission presses are kept busy supplying the needed papers, magazines, and books. The Board has always been prominent in providing scholarly men for the translation and

revision of the Holy Scriptures. Correspondingly in all lines of literary output the missionaries of the Board have made their influence felt in conspicuous ways.

Plain Dollars and Cents

On account of economic conditions which all will understand, speaking generally, we may say the cost is double what it was before the war. Even so, the work is conducted at an exceedingly low figure considering its vast extent. The expense of the regular work of the last fiscal year ending August 31, 1922 (apart from the three affiliated Woman's Boards), was $1,144,413.75. In addition a deficit of $18,110.05 on this year was brought over. This with the deficit of the previous year makes a total of $180,039.94. Appropriations for this present fiscal year, ending August 31, 1923, are not made until October, but when voted by the Prudential Committee will be pared to the limit, and beyond. There can be no allowance for advance in the work. The giving of the churches during this fiscal year will be the real test as to whether the work will be pushed forward or drastically cut. The Board needs every dollar of its share of the National Apportionment of $5,000,000, or approximately $1,327,304. This, with added income from funds and legacies, would enable the Board to advance. We believe the churches are going to make a new record of progress.

Are we asking the impossible? An average gift of five cents per week from each Congregational member would give the Board $2,100,800 per year. Since the cost for administration, promotion, and all home expenses is only about nine cents out of every dollar, donors may know that their money is being used to the best possible advantage.

The Tragedy in Turkey

The greatest disaster in modern missions has overtaken the American Board in the Near East. Before the war one third of the Board's operations and expenditures were in the Turkish Empire.

Today this work is reduced to a fraction of its former dimensions. It is an open question whether any Christian people will be left in Asia Minor. The disaster at Smyrna, one of the greatest tragedies in the Christian world, may impress some as a fatal body blow. It is too soon to forecast the outcome, but the Congregationalists have never been quitters and they will not be now. The appeal is for courage, steadfastness, and hope. We do not forget that twenty-two years ago China was in the throes of an anti-Christian revolution, and that the entire structure of the Board's work in North China was destroyed. Twenty years from now, if we remain true, we may be reaping spiritual harvests in Turkey, like those in China today. We appeal to our churches to stand by the Board in these dark days, and not for one moment to think that we are to abandon the people of Turkey.

The Missionaries' New Day

Increasingly, statesmen, world economists, captains of industry, and prominent educators acknowledge that Christianity is the only solution of the social, economic, and religious conditions which distress mankind. Correspondingly the missionary finds himself enjoying a new status in these days. He has become a world figure; he is the true internationalist, the preserver of peace, and the promoter of the higher life of the world.

With such opportunities opening before the Board, the problem is not so much on the foreign field as at home. The problem which presses is this: Will the churches sustain and advance their foreign work under these extraordinarily promising conditions?

Christ is marching on. Shall his Church move forward with him?

For literature and leaflets send to the district offices of the American Board, 287 Fourth Ave., New York City, 19 South La Salle St., Chicago, Phelan Building, San Francisco, or to John G. Hosmer, Agent, 14 Beacon Street, Boston. Send gifts to Frederick A. Gaskins, Treasurer, 14 Beacon Street, Boston.

Printed in U. S. A.